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ABSTRACT

Noting the importance of, and benefits from, parents' involvement in their children's education, this book offers parents, educators, and community organizations a source for understanding the meaning of partnerships between school, family, and community. Chapter 1 discusses broad emerging change factors as the United States undergoes a transition with resultant modifications in family patterns. Chapter 2 takes a look at family patterns and the relationship to the African-American experience in the context of changing socio-economic conditions that affect educational success. Chapter 3 discusses the status of Hispanics in the United States and their unique family characteristics. Chapter 4 describes the ethnic composition of Asians in the United States and their unique perceptions of educational excellence. Chapter 5 provides information on goals, and on activities and leadership roles of citizens/parents groups that have been formed to provide guidance, monitoring, and leadership in schools. Chapter 6 analyzes the different roles parents need to play in advocating for children and communities. Chapter 7 presents the hypothesis that parents as well as students need to have a positive self-image. Chapter 8 provides a discussion of the specific characteristics of a successful school and chapter 9 presents characteristics of successful students. Chapter 10 addresses parents as educators. Chapter 11 presents recommendations to improve parental involvement and chapter 12 lists organizations and agencies that have been recognized as advocates for parents. Each chapter includes references. (TJQ)

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